



# NSF-NSFC Second Joint Call for Research Proposals - 2024

## NSF Guidelines and Criteria for Application

*National Science Foundation (NSF), Sri Lanka is the premier science funding body in Sri Lanka which facilitates research, development, and innovation to create a knowledge economy while engaging in capacity building of STI personnel, R&D infrastructure development, technology transfer, knowledge creation and sharing in all fields of science and technology to improve the quality of life of the people of Sri Lanka.*

*National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) is responsible for directing, coordinating, and making effective use of the national natural science fund to support Basic Research/ Applied Basic Research and stimulate free exploration, identify and foster scientific talents, as well as to promote science and technology and harmonious socioeconomic development of China.*

*Focusing on strengthened bilateral scientific cooperation, NSF and NSFC are calling for proposals on joint research and development from research groups involving members from both countries.*

### Focus and Priority

Proposals are called under the research area of "Environmental challenges in industrial development".

With an emphasis on SDG goals namely "Clean Water and Sanitation" (SDG 6), "Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure" (SDG 9), "Responsible Consumption and Production" (SDG 12), "Partnerships for the Goals" (SDG 17) and other sustainable development goals, in this turn focus is on research interventions addressing challenges in industrial development, including water environment protection and water resources management, green and low-carbon development and processing, solid waste pollution prevention and comprehensive utilization, to provide scientific solutions for sustainable development in Sri Lanka.

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## Guidelines for Application for Sri Lankan side

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- Sri Lankan and Chinese scientists should come to a mutual agreement with each other using their own means of communication and jointly develop and complete their joint project proposals before submission (Neither NSFC nor NSF engage in match-making the collaborating partners).
  - The Principal Investigator (PI) of the Sri Lankan Research Team should download the applications of the '**NSF-NSFC Joint Call for Proposals – 2024**' which is available at the NSF web site: [www.nsf.gov.lk](http://www.nsf.gov.lk) and submit e-version of the duly filled **applications and attachments** to [icrpnsfc@nsf.gov.lk](mailto:icrpnsfc@nsf.gov.lk). All applications submitted should be addressed to the Director General of the NSF. The collaborating Chinese Researchers shall simultaneously submit their Application to the NSFC according to their requirements. The project duration should not exceed 3 years.
  - An English translation of the Project Proposal to be submitted by the Chinese counterpart collaborators to the National Natural Science Foundation, China (NSFC) should also be attached to the application.
  - Proposals submitted individually from any side without a Sri Lankan or Chinese collaborator will not be processed further.
  - The proposals should be prepared addressing the national needs towards sustainable development of selected industrial sector with multi-stakeholder participation.
  - The Principal Investigators are encouraged to submit joint research proposals with befitting multi-disciplinary teams and industry, civil society partners.
  - Proposals with financial support or in-kind support from industry/civil society collaborators are given priority and engagement of an industry partner will be mandatory for these projects.
  - The proposals should be prepared in a manner in which basic/applied science aspect of the research problem is well addressed.
  - The total Project Cost by the Sri Lankan Research Team should not exceed USD 28,000. The budget mentioned in the 'International Collaborative Research Programme (ICRP) for the Joint Call for Proposals between NSF and NSFC' should include only the cost to be incurred in carrying out Sri Lanka component of the joint project by the Sri Lankan Team of the Joint Research Group. The Sri Lankan research component is expected to be funded collectively by NSF-Sri Lanka, Industry partner and any other funding sources. The Chinese component will be funded by the NSFC.
  - The soft copies of the applications by Sri Lankan scientists (along with all the attachments) have to be submitted to: [icrpnsfc@nsf.gov.lk](mailto:icrpnsfc@nsf.gov.lk)
  - **Incomplete, inaccurate and applications received after given deadline will not be processed.**
  - The e-version of the completed application along with all the attachments should reach the NSF and NSFC simultaneously by 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
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### **Evaluation of Proposals for Sri Lankan side**

- Only jointly submitted (Sri Lankan and Chinese Partners) proposals will be eligible for evaluation.
- The proposals will be evaluated and recommended by the NSF and NSFC jointly.
- Only the project proposals which are approved by both the NSF and NSFC will be supported.
- Proposals should have industry and/or civil society collaborators. Proposals having financial support are given priority.
- Complementarity and synergy through the proposed joint research collaboration should be substantial.
- Proposals addressing industry needs/problems will have an added advantage.
- Proposals with research teams formed from multi-disciplinary teams/Transdisciplinary teams are also given priority.
- Funding for the selected Joint Research Projects will commence from March 2025 on availability of funds.
- Decision of NSF and NSFC pertaining to evaluation and selection of proposals will be the final.

Should you require any further clarification, please contact Eng. Mahesh Dissanayake, Head of Research Division, Tel. 011 2696771, Ext. 120.